

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: which comprises

a compression mechanism (20) and a drive mechanism (30) operable to activate said compression mechanism (20) and in which said compression mechanism (20) includes a discharge valve mechanism (40), ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism (40) is being configured such that a plurality of discharge openings (29a, 29b) are placed in an open or closed state by ~~means of~~ a plate-like valve element (41) which is a reed valve, and each of said discharge openings (29a, 29b) is formed at a respective location between a base end side and a leading end side of said valve element (41), and

a ~~corresponding~~ first portion of said valve element (41) corresponding to one of said discharge openings (29a) on the leading end side has a bending strength set smaller than that of a ~~corresponding~~ second portion of said valve element (41) corresponding to another one of said discharge openings (29b) on the base end side.

2. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

two discharge openings (29a, 29b) are formed in said compression mechanism (20), and

said valve element (41) includes a small-width part (41a) of smaller width dimension between said ~~corresponding~~ second portion corresponding to said discharge opening (29b) on the base end side and said ~~corresponding~~ first portion corresponding to said discharge opening (29a) on the leading end side.

3. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

two discharge openings (29a, 29b) are formed in said compression mechanism (20), and

said ~~corresponding~~ first portion of said valve element (41) corresponding to said discharge opening (29a) on the leading end side has a smaller width dimension than that of said ~~corresponding~~ second portion of said valve element (41) corresponding to said discharge opening (29b) on the base end side.

4. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: which ~~comprises~~

a compression mechanism (20) and a drive mechanism (30) operable to activate said compression mechanism (20) and in which said compression mechanism (20) includes a discharge valve mechanism (40), ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism (40) ~~comprises~~ having a first valve mechanism (40A) including a first valve element (41A) which is a reed valve operable to place a discharge opening (29a) in an open or closed state, and a second valve mechanism (40B) including a

second valve element (41B) which is a poppet valve operable to place another discharge opening (29b) in an open or closed state.

5. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor according to claim 4, wherein:

said first valve mechanism (40A) has a first discharge port diameter ($\phi Dd1$) and a first seat diameter ($\phi Ds1$) and said second valve mechanism (40B) has a second discharge port diameter ($\phi Dd2$) and a second seat diameter ($\phi Ds2$), said discharge port diameters being set such that $\phi Dd1 < \phi Dd2$, said seat diameters being set such that $\phi Ds1 < \phi Ds2$ first discharge port diameter is less than said second discharge port diameter and said first seat diameter is less than said second seat diameter, and

said first valve element (41A) has a first lift amount ($L1$) and said second valve element (41B) has a second lift amount ($L2$), said lift amounts being set such that $L2 < L1$ second lift amount is less than said first lift amount.

6. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor ~~which comprises according to claim 1, wherein~~

~~—— a compression mechanism (20) and a drive mechanism (30) operable to activate said compression mechanism (20) and in which said compression mechanism (20) includes a discharge valve mechanism (40), wherein:~~

~~—— said discharge valve mechanism (40) is configured such that a plurality of discharge openings (29a, 29b) are placed in an open or closed state by means of a plate like valve~~

~~element (43), and each of said discharge openings (29a, 29b) is formed at a respective location between a base end side and a leading end side of said valve element (43), and~~
~~a corresponding portion (43a) of said valve element (43) to said discharge openings (29a) on the leading end side has a smaller bending strength than that of a corresponding portion (43b) of said valve element (43) to said discharge openings (29b) on the base end side, and~~

~~said first corresponding portion (43a) to said discharge opening (29a) of said valve element corresponding to one of said discharge openings on the leading end side is formed as a the reed valve while said second corresponding portion (43b) to said discharge opening (29b) of said valve element corresponding to another one of said discharge openings on the base end side is formed as a poppet valve.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

~~two discharge openings (29a, 29b) are formed in said compression mechanism (20), and~~

~~said valve element (43) includes a small-width part (43e) of smaller width dimension between a ~~corresponding~~ said second portion of said valve element (43) corresponding to said discharge opening (29b) on the base end side and a ~~corresponding~~ said first portion of said valve element (43) corresponding to said discharge opening (29a) on the leading end side.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

two discharge openings (~~29a, 29b~~) are formed in said compression mechanism (~~20~~),
and

~~a corresponding~~ said first portion of said valve element (~~43~~) corresponding to said discharge opening (~~29a~~) on the leading end side has a smaller width dimension than that of a ~~corresponding~~ said second portion of said valve element (~~43~~) corresponding to said discharge opening (~~29b~~) on the base end side.

9. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: which
~~comprises~~

a compression mechanism (~~20~~) and a drive mechanism (~~30~~) operable to activate said compression mechanism (~~20~~) and in which said compression mechanism (~~20~~) includes a discharge valve mechanism (~~40~~), ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism (~~40~~) ~~comprises~~ having a first valve mechanism (~~40A~~) including a first valve element (~~41A~~) operable to place a discharge opening (~~29a~~) in an open or closed state, and a second valve mechanism (~~40B~~) including a second valve element (~~41B~~) operable to place another discharge opening (~~29b~~) in an open or closed state, and

both said first valve element (~~41A~~) and said second valve element (~~41B~~) are formed by reed valves and said first valve element (~~41A~~) ~~has~~ having a bending strength set smaller than that of said second valve element (~~41B~~).

10. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

said first valve element ~~(41A)~~ has a smaller thickness than that of said second valve element ~~(41B)~~.